

SEP 25 2007

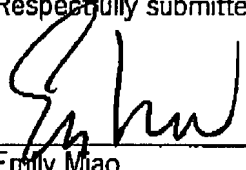
REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 10, 11, and 17 are pending in this application. New claims 25-28 were added. The new claims are directed to polyhistidine-tagged human cytokines, specifically polyhistidine-tagged human IL9ra. Support for the new claims can be found in Example 1. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of the above amendment.

As indicated in the Example 1, the claimed method is surprisingly useful for the purification of minute quantities of human cytokines, providing nearly 100% capture of the polyhistidine-tagged cytokine and greater than 99% final purity as judged by silver stain SDS gels. Neither Sporeno (Cytokine, 6(3):255-264 (1994) nor Newton (Mol. Biotech. 20:63-76 (2002) teach or suggest such levels of yield and purity or that such levels can be achieved by the presently claimed method.

Consideration of this application in view of the claim amendments is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes this would be helpful in expediting the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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